

**Concordia University
Faculty of Fine Arts Council
Minutes of the Meeting of October 15, 2004**

Present: C. Jackson (Chair); L. Berezowsky, A. Cappelluto, M. Corwin, D. Elliott, A. Fagnoli, B. Foss, C. Godziuk, M. Gruber, N. Jirku, R. Kenneally, R. Kerr, T. Kiernander, W. Krol, R. Lachapelle, P.K. Langshaw, C. MacKenzie, M. Montanaro, R. Mountain, D. Oxley, D. Pariser, G. Powell, M. Reinhart, G. Schwartz, T. Waugh, S. Westbrook

Absent with apologies: L. Adams, L. Lerner, T. Stathopoulos

Guests: K. Adams, J. Beaudoin, B. Black

1. Appointments to Fine Arts Faculty Council (FFAC-04-10-15-D1)

MOTION: (R. Mountain, M. Montanaro)

“that the following appointments to Fine Arts Faculty Council be approved:

Department Representatives (2 years):

D. Pariser, Department of Art Education
R. Kenneally, Department of Design Art
R. Reid, Department of Theatre

Part Time Faculty Representatives (1 year)

L. Berezowsky, Studio Arts
D. Oxley, Studio Arts
G. Schwartz, Music

Undergraduate Student Representatives (1 year)

Chris Godziuk
Melissa Gruber
Trevor Kiernander
Mat Perron
Susan Westbrook

Graduate Student Representative (1 year)

Grace Powell.”

CARRIED

2. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved, with the addition of one item:

11. Academic Regulations for Incomplete (INC) Notation and In Progress (IP) designation (FFAC-04-10-15-D6).

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of April 23, 2004

MOTION: (M. Corwin, D. Elliott)

“that the minutes of the meeting of April 23, 2004 be approved.”

CARRIED

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

5. Chair's Remarks

The Dean made the following remarks:

- There are several searches currently being conducted for Senior Administrative positions. These include: the Dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts, the President and Vice-Chancellor, and the Vice-President, Advancement.
- Within the Office of the Provost, three new positions have been established: a Vice-Provost, Research, Dr. T. Vo Van, a Vice-Provost, Academic Programmes, Dr. D. Morin, and finally a Vice-Provost, International Relations, which has not yet been filled.
- The admissions process for graduate students is being de-centralized from the School of Graduate Studies to the Faculties. It is hoped that this will accelerate the acceptance process, as well as improve the tracking of information on graduate students. Jean-Pierre Duchesne, Enrolment Manager, is the Fine Arts representative on the task force that is managing the implementation. Implementation is scheduled for January 2005.
- Last year, SSHRC introduced its first grant programme for researchers involved in “research/creative activity”, after much lobbying by Fine Arts Deans and other groups. While the Council expected to receive 30 to 35 applications, they received more than 200, and were surprised by this response. Though many of our researchers received “4A” standing, there were not adequate resources to fund

many of them. Lobbying continues, and more work must be done to re-inforce the nature of creative activity/research in the fine arts, so that it is not necessary to wed practice to theory in order to receive funding. FQRSC has been much more inclusive of a broad spectrum of practices.

- The Provost will attend the November meeting of Fine Arts Faculty Council to discuss the profile of the ideal candidate for Dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts.

6. Question Period

M. Gruber asked whether a proposal to conserve the use of paper in the University had been received, and whether it would be discussed at Council. This item was received too late for this meeting, but will be discussed in November.

7. Appointments to Senate and Committees of Senate (FFAC-04-10-15-D2)

MOTION: (R. Kerr, L. Berezowsky)

“that the following appointments to Senate and Committees of Senate be approved:

Appointments to Senate and Committees of Senate

D. Vivian, Theatre (1 year).”

CARRIED

8. Name Change for Department of Design Art and Programme in Digital Image and Sound (FFAC-04-10-15-D3)

MOTION: (R. Lachapelle, M. Montanaro)

“THAT Fine Arts Faculty Council recommends to Senate that the programmes of the Department of Design Art and the programmes in Digital Image/Sound and the Fine Arts be consolidated into a single department; AND

THAT, as a result of this consolidation, the Department of Design Art be renamed the Department of Design and Computation Arts.”

The Dean noted that the need for this motion was explained within the Curriculum Report which was the next item on Council’s agenda. R. Richman Kenneally provided further context for the change, explaining that the department had grown, several new faculty have been hired, and the consolidation of the two programmes was the outcome. The department believes that the new name, Design and Computation Arts, best represents its programmes to the community. T. Waugh asked about the French translation of the name, which has not yet been finalized.

The question was then called and **CARRIED**

9. Faculty of Fine Arts Curriculum Reports #88, #89, #90 (FFAC-04-10-15 D4)

Associate Dean Brian Foss presented the Curriculum Reports to Council. Both Report #88 and Report #89 involved editorial changes that were not seen as significant.

MOTION: (B. Foss, R. Kerr)

“that Curriculum Report #88 be approved.”

CARRIED

MOTION: (B. Foss, W. Krol)

“that Graduate Curriculum Report #89 be approved.”

CARRIED

MOTION: (B. Foss, C. MacKenzie)

“that Curriculum Report #90 be approved.”

Associate Dean Foss then presented and briefly summarized each section of Curriculum Report #90.

Most significant is the proposed change in regulations concerning “failed standing.” The Faculty of Fine Arts proposal includes a newer, simpler method for assessing failed standing, that will put it in line with other Faculties in the University. The current system is byzantine, and cumbersome to administer.

M. Gruber asked about the impact of the change on students. Associate Dean Foss responded that a test run of the new system had been done, and that no significant change in the number of students who would be classified as failed had resulted.

Most of the editorial changes presented by the newly constituted Department of Design and Computation Arts, are the result of their name change. In addition, the Department has recuperated two 3 credit courses that had been taught in Film Animation, but had been reserved for Design and Computation Arts students.

Photography is changing its first year foundation course from black and white to colour. There are no resource implications to this change.

Other changes in the Report are primarily editorial or housekeeping.

He then opened the floor to discussion.

M. Gruber asked about resource implications of some of the changes. In response, Associate Dean Foss noted that there was only one in Cinema that would require the addition of a three credit course. This is usually done through rotation of other course offerings.

T. Kiernander asked if additional students would be admitted, due to increased space in the New Building.

The Dean noted that the Faculty has grown by 40-50 FTEs this year, which is significant. Ours is the only Faculty to have had enrolment growth this year, as demand for other programmes outside Fine Arts seems to have flattened. This increase is very important to the Faculty, as it is enrolments that determine budget. In the near future, the government funding formula is expected to change again, and this year's budget will certainly be the starting point for all future discussions. The Dean thanked the departments for working hard to accept as many students as possible, while still maintaining standards. In response to T. Kiernander's question, the Dean indicated that admissions are not likely to increase significantly next year, in light of this year's bulge. However, the new facilities will allow us to increase class size, and service students in other Faculties who are looking for elective courses. This is a significant area of development for us.

The question was then called and **CARRIED**.

10. Concordia: Canada's University for the 21st Century (FFAC-04-10-15-D5)

The Dean introduced and summarized the above report in the following manner. The report had been prepared as a briefing paper for the Board of Governors, by Dr. Singer, the new Provost and Vice-President. As such, it will also serve as a template for strategic planning in the academic sector, and outlines a series of challenges that the University will be addressing during this academic year, as well as the strategies it will use to do so. There is also a good description of how the University has grown and changed. It is refreshing to see a description of some of the qualitative aspects of these changes in such a document. The document is being sent to Councils for information and feedback, and comments will be forwarded to the Provost.

There are eight challenges outlined:

1. A review of academic priorities

This will include a review of existing Strategic Plans. The current Fine Arts Strategic Plan covers a five year period, from 2001 to 2006, and so it is particularly vital that we review our progress at this time.

2. Hiring of more full time faculty

Across the University, an additional 200 new full time faculty positions are projected. The standard for calculating this is 25 FTEs (i.e. 250 3-credit student registrations) per full time faculty member. Each Faculty must submit a prioritized list of tenure-track hiring over a five year period.

3. A review of enrolment objectives

This involves a discussion of the ideal size of the student body, and includes discussion of accessibility, academic standards, and the balance between undergraduate and graduate populations. Increasing graduate enrolment to 20% of the student body is one suggestion.

4. Teaching, advising and support services for students

This includes a discussion of teaching quality, as well as support services and facilities, such as the library, that are needed to support teaching and learning.

5. Research

The importance of externally funded research is highlighted. Within Fine Arts, this will mean more lobbying of granting agencies to ensure that funding programmes include the Fine Arts and continue to encompass creative activity within the definition of research. UQAM has re-inforced this concept very effectively by always using the double expression "recherche/création" in applicable situations.

6. International relations

There are many bi-lateral agreements already in place with countries such as China and Germany. Increasing the number of Concordia students who study abroad is a priority. Presently, the University is in a deficit situation vis à vis international students, with more international students choosing to study here than we send abroad. The MEQ provides assistance to Québec students who wish to study abroad, a fact that must be better publicized to students. Increasing the numbers of international students in our programmes is also a priority.

7. Communications

Creating a new image for the University, based upon the present faculty and student populations, is a consequence of strategic planning.

8. Academic re-organization

Given the growth in size and complexity of Concordia, a review of the organization of the academic sector needs to be conducted, at both the department and Faculty levels.

He then opened the floor to discussion:

- M. Gruber asked if there were existing quotas on the number of full time, part time, undergraduate and graduate students in Fine Arts. If so, do the report's enrolment proposals pose a problem for Fine Arts?

The Dean confirmed that there are no quotas on full time and part time study, nor the appropriate percentage of graduate to undergraduate students. The report provides directions, many of which have evolved over time. In Fine Arts, for example, the number of students studying part time has declined, while overall numbers of full time registrations have increased. The University has primarily been an undergraduate institution, but some re-balancing may now be in order. To some extent, funding issues are driving the discussion, but the University's historical strength as an undergraduate institution should not be disregarded.

- Recognizing the role of part time faculty and, in particular, their importance to maintaining diversity in the institution, is something that D. Oxley would like to see emphasized in the report.

The Dean agreed that Fine Arts is different from other Faculties in that part time faculty are also practicing artists, and that the Faculty is fortunate to have their expertise. Prominent in their fields, these part time faculty members make distinct contributions to the programmes. When the Strategic Plan is re-visited, it would be advisable to make a more specific statement about full time and part time hiring.

- C. MacKenzie asked about the standard of 25 FTEs per faculty member and, if applied to Fine Arts, what the impact would be. If it would mean a net loss of positions, she was curious as to how the planning process within the Faculty could address this issue.

The Dean confirmed that, if applied, this ratio would mean a net decrease of positions in Fine Arts. He would rather see us benchmark ourselves against similar institutions, i.e. Fine Arts Faculties in other universities, as this would provide a more realistic comparison.

- M. Corwin noted that on page 10, in reference to the Grey Nuns Mother House, the report states: "Acquisition of this historic property will double the size of the downtown campus, add much needed green space and provide a possible location for the balance of the Fine Arts Faculty and/or other departments." He saw the use of the word possible, as downgrading the commitment that had already been made to the Performing Arts.

The Dean assured him that the Performing Arts were still at the top of the priority list for improved facilities. Though there appears to be no other good candidate for the

Grey Nuns property, the University would like a structured, rational discussion of its usage to take place before final assignment is made. The Fine Arts proposal is very good, and the final arbiter will be the Real Estate Committee of the Board, and the Board of Governors.

Several members expressed concern that the Grey Nuns project may be in jeopardy. The Dean felt it would be premature to make this assumption, however, he promised to alert Council immediately if there were significant developments.

In closing, he indicated that other comments could be sent in writing directly to the Provost. Council's discussion will also be forwarded.

11. Academic Regulations for INC and IP Notations (FFAC-04-10-15-D6)

Associate Dean B. Foss noted that the above document had been presented to the Academic Programmes Committee (APC) by the Faculty of Arts and Science. As any change to grading regulations has implications for all Faculties, the proposal was not approved, and had been sent to Councils for feedback and comment.

He summarized the two most important aspects of the proposal: 1) that the notation INC be removed from student transcripts and records, after a certain deadline and 2) that IP (in progress) grades be used in courses such as internships, which fall outside the normal deadlines used for course-based grading.

In general, there was hesitation concerning both changes. The removal of INC notations may provide a false impression to other institutions, particularly if a student has difficulty completing courses on a regular basis. Presently, IP grades are only used in graduate programmes, and guidelines for undergraduate course work would be needed. It was also noted that IP grades are automatically changed to failed grades after certain deadlines, and that this would need to be harmonized with the system.

Associate Dean Foss will forward Council's comments to APC.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

S. McLeod
October 15, 2004